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A NEW TANTILLA FROM MEXICO.

BY THOMAS BARBOUR.

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When Stejneger described *Tantilla wilcoxi* (Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., 25, 1902, p. 156) he closed his notice with the words: "It would then be interesting to know what is Garman's *T. coronata* from San Luis Potosi." The specimen mentioned by Garman (Bull. Essex Inst., 19, 1887, p. 128) is now before me, and I believe represents a new form, near *T. wilcoxi* Stejneger, and also close to *T. bocourti* Günther, which unfortunately I have not seen, and which was very inadequately described. I imagine that this form may be an intermediate type, perhaps annectant between these two species. I naturally have submitted our specimen to Stejneger for comparison with the type of *T. wilcoxi*, and he writes me as follows, under date of March 28, 1916:

"I have looked at your *Tantilla* and compared it with the type of *T. wilcoxi*. The eye is smaller, though larger than in *T. coronata*. Top of head very similar, though supraoculars smaller, corresponding to eyes, head not so broad over temples. Color pattern practically identical. But then your specimen is smaller than the type. *However*, your specimen has first pair of lower labials broadly in contact behind mental as in *T. bocourti*, while in *T. wilcoxi*, they are separated by mental."

Günther, however, in describing *T. bocourti* (Biol. Cent., Am., Rept., 1894, p. 149) begins by saying of his species: "Vertical (= frontal) shield moderately broad, considerably longer than broad, much broader than the supraocular." This is not the condition in the example in hand, in which it is more than moderately broad. Unfortunately Günther makes no mention whatever of the size of the eye. *T. bocourti* Günther was collected by the veteran Dugès at Guanajuato. Pending

the possible future revision of the genus, I think it well to name the snake from San Luis Potosi, and it may be called

***Tantilla deviatrrix* sp. nov.**

*Type*, M. C. Z. No. 6195, from San Luis Potosi, Mexico, collected in March, 1878, by Dr. Edward Palmer.

Head narrow, not distinct from neck; eye rather small, scarcely more than one third the length of the snout; rostral wider than high, the portion visible from above less than the length of the internasal suture; internasals short, less than half as large as the praefrontals, the lower border of each of which is wedged down between the posterior nasal and the praecocular, but not to contact with the supralabials; frontal a hexagon, the anterior angle very obtuse, the posterior rather acute, the side borders converging very slightly backwards; its width slightly more than two thirds its length and about twice the width of the supraoculars, its length slightly less than the interparietal suture; supraoculars moderate, their width at the posterior end scarcely half that of the frontal; parietals slightly longer than their distance from tip of snout; nasals and praecocular of about equal size, the latter considerably in contact with the posterior nasal; one praecocular; two postoculars, the upper the larger; temporals 1 + 1 (on one side, the left, of the type, there is a tiny scale intercalated between the upper postoculars and the upper anterior corner of the first temporal); temporals long and narrow; supralabials 7, third and fourth entering the eye, seventh largest, almost square; infralabials 7, four in contact with anterior chin shields, first pair broadly in contact with each other behind mental; anterior chin shields slightly longer than the second pair; 15 rows of smooth scales; four pairs of scales between posterior chin shields and ventrals; ventrals 154; anal divided; subcaudals 63.

Color (in alcohol) very pale uniform reddish above (evidently much faded), yellowish white beneath; top of head brown, the dark color barely including the eyes and descending to the labial margin on the posterior half of the sixth and the entire seventh supralabial; a white semicollar just behind the parietals and taking in their posterior ends (about one sixth of the parietals being white), in general the white band covers a part of two rows of scales and it is followed posteriorly by a narrow brown band only about one scale wide; the latter band extending slightly and abruptly forward on the median line, thus narrowing the white semicollar at this point.

Total length, 170 mm., tail 39 mm.

It is well to state here that Günther says that *T. bocourti* has ventrals 172-176 and subcaudals 55, which is quite different from the count given above, while Stejneger gives for *T. wilcoxi* a count of, ventrals 152, tail imperfect. The size of eye, shape of head and arrangement of chin shields sets *deviatrrix* well off from *wilcoxi*. A second specimen of *T. wilcoxi* was recorded by Van Denburgh (Proc. Cal. Ac. Sci. (4), 3, 1913, p. 424) from Ramsay Cañon in the Huachuca Mountains of Arizona. This example has 157 ventrals and 58 subcaudals.